

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE CITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2004  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 1327 FOOTHILL BLVD.  
LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, CALIFORNIA**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Portantino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Councilmembers present were Gregory Brown, Stephen Del Guercio, David Spence, Anthony Portantino and Mayor Olhasso.

Staff members present were City Manager Alexander; City Attorney Steres; Director of Public Works Castellanos; Director of Community Development Stanley; Management Analyst Wilson, and City Clerk Wahlsten.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ross Easttey, a La Cañada Flintridge resident.

4. Comments from the Public

The following persons were present wishing to speak:

Ross Easttey asked if a sign “reduced speed ahead” could be placed on the north reaches of Angeles Crest Highway. He also requested a crosswalk at Green Lane and Angeles Crest Highway. Green Lane is the only street that goes both ways off ACH. He cited an experience he had with his wife while crossing ACH at Green. A Sheriff’s car that was some distance away turned on his flashing light and spoke to them through the bullhorn about “looking before they crossed.”

Director of Public Works Castellanos stated the Public Works & Traffic Commission had declined to put a traffic signal at Green Lane and Angeles Crest Highway and a crosswalk sometimes creates a false sense of security. He concurred that a “reduced speed ahead” sign could be a good idea and he will talk to CalTrans about installing one.

Councilmember Brown noted that this year’s budget includes a flashing sign on the southbound Angeles Crest Highway that shows a motorist his speed.

Presentations

5. Public Safety Update – Sheriff’s Department

Captain Tim Peters of the Sheriff's Department apologized to Mr. Eastey for the conduct of his deputies that was reported under Public Comment. He stated it was not what is expected from deputies assigned to his station and he will look into it.

He reported there were no vehicle burglaries last month and commended residents for keeping their vehicles locked and valuables out of sight. However, there was an increase in residential burglaries, some with unlocked doors and some during construction projects.

Captain Peters made a presentation regarding Proposition A on the November 2, 2004 ballot that, if approved, will impose a one-half cents sales tax to be used for law enforcement purposes.

6. "One City, One Book" Blue Ribbon Committee

Mayor Olhasso introduced Carol Cormaci; Editor of the La Cañada Valley Sun; Sue Reyner, County Librarian at the La Cañada Flintridge Branch; and Chris Erskine, columnist for the Los Angeles Times, who are three of the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee she recently appointed. Ms Cormaci stated they have selected John Steinbeck's "Travels with Charley" as the book to be read. Mr. Steinbeck is a native Californian and this is an upbeat story that can appeal to all ages. Mr. Erskine stated a lecture is scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Library and they are trying to get John Steinbeck's son, Thomas, as the speaker. Ms. Reyner stated that the Friends of the Library are purchasing a supply of the books for sale. Some will be available at City Hall.

Mayor Olhasso thanked the Committee for all their work and stated she hopes this will become an annual event.

7. Update on Sewer Assessment District 04-1

Mayor Olhasso thanked Mr. Short for withdrawing his lawsuit so that the project can proceed.

Larry Rolapp, financial advisor with Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates; Warren Diven, bond counsel with Best Best & Krieger; and Sara Oberlies with underwriter Stone & Youngberg, gave an update on the financing of the Assessment District. The mechanics to allow for the financing and possible future refunding through the State's revolving loan program have been worked out. The current plan is to price the transaction at the end of the month, close the transaction on October 13, with notice to proceed to the contractor on October 15. The only issue is making sure the State understands what we are doing.

In response to Council query, City Manager Alexander stated that cash collection will be between \$5.5 and \$6 million.

Stone & Youngberg will be sending a letter to property owners in the Assessment District giving them information on buying the bonds. They will be available the end of the month.

Director of Public Works Castellanos stated that with the schedule outlined by Mr. Rolapp, construction will start on November 1 and the project will be completed in two years. District 2 is scheduled to be completed early 2005. All the main line is installed in District 2.

Mr. Rolapp noted that bonds for District 2 will not be included in this bond sale since there is still adequate cash on hand according to the City Treasurer.

Mayor Olhasso asked about a schedule for Areas 4 and 5. City Manager Alexander stated that discussion on Sewer Areas 4 and 5 is scheduled for the October 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Mr. Rolapp noted that the State Loan application is for Areas 3, 4 and 5.

Councilmember Spence requested that future agenda items regarding the Assessment District 04-1 indicate that it is Sewer Areas 3A & 3B. The numbering makes it confusing.

### Consent Calendar

Motion by Councilmember Spence, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio to approve the Consent Calendar, as follows:

8. Approval of Minutes of the City Council:
  - July 6, 2004 Regular Meeting
  - July 8, 2004 Special Meeting
  - July 19, 2004 Special Meeting
9. Receive and file Commission Agendas
  - Design Commission Action Agenda from Meeting August 5, 2004
  - Youth Council Agenda for Meeting September 3, 2004
  - Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for Meeting September 8, 2004
10. Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 04-15
11. Acceptance of Report of City's Investments for period ending July 31, 2004.
12. Approval of agreement with the Crescenta Valley Water District to Provide wastewater Conveyance Services in connection with Sanitary Sewer Assessment District 04-1, Project Area 3A, and authorize payment as detailed in the agreement.
13. Authorization for Blue Ribbon Committee to use the City logo to promote the "One City, One Book" program

Motion carried unanimously.

### Reordering of and Additions to the Agenda

Item 15 was re-ordered to this place in the agenda.

### Other Business

15. Presentation and discussion of the proposed Tunnel Feasibility Study for the I-710 Freeway.

Item introduced by Management Analyst Wilson. The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has prepared a RFP for a feasibility study for the I-710 tunnel and is requesting input on the study. The RFP itself is confidential by MTA protocol so our agenda statement is a summary.

Shahrzad Amiri, David Olivo and Helen Ortiz, regional community relations manager, of the MTA were present. Ms. Ortiz referred to the December, 2003 City Council meeting when Roger Snoble, MTA CEO, Doug Failing, Cal Trans District Director, and Mark Pisano, SCAG Executive Director, made a presentation regarding the tunnel concept. Since that time, MTA technical staff has worked with La Cañada Flintridge staff regarding the City Council's comments on the proposed concept.

Ms. Amiri explained the purpose of the technical assessment is to answer questions associated with the concept of a bored tunnel including the potential cost, identify potential impacts, and assess the technical parameters of a bored tunnel. Major components are: tunnel configuration alignment, capacity, location of portals, safety considerations, traffic analysis, identification of the environmental issues, real estate impacts, and costs. La Cañada Flintridge staff has reviewed and provided feedback. The completed technical assessment will be used as a decision-making tool for the next steps.

Councilmember Del Guercio stated his understanding is that the issues impacting the citizens of La Cañada Flintridge are not being studied in any meaningful way. He cited the real estate value impact from increased noise from the I-210 and diesel emissions from trucks stopped on the I-210. He asked if the feasibility study includes the required environmental studies of the type referred to in the December, 2003 Federal Highway Administration letter. Ms. Amiri replied that this is just a very preliminary, not very costly, work and if the project is to move ahead a Project Study Report would have to be completed that would include the environmental reports Councilmember Del Guercio referred to. (Corrections made by Council action October 4, 2004.)

Councilmember Del Guercio expressed concern that this preliminary study ends up being the basis of a decision before we know the impacts of the diesel emissions and other environmental impacts on the community. With respect to the diesel emissions, he cited the recent USC study that links diesel emissions to serious health problems. ~~trucks,~~ This is particularly of concern because of the number of schools that are adjacent to the I-210 in La Cañada Flintridge. (Corrections made by Council action October 4, 2004.)

Councilmember Brown asked if alternate routes would be studied, for example connecting the north end of the I-710 to the 2 Freeway. He noted that the assumed alignment may improve traffic flow in one area, but make it worse in others and it's the other areas that aren't being studied. Ms. Amiri stated the focus is connecting the I-710 between the I-10 and the I-210, based on MTA's long-range plan that is part of SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan. She did state that the sound studies and the traffic analysis would include La Cañada Flintridge area.

Mayor Pro Tem Portantino asked why the RFP was confidential, since it's hard to comment on a document he hasn't read. He noted if staff has seen it should be able to be shared with the City Council. Ms. Amiri stated that it is a confidential document, but if the Council signed an oath not to share it, it might be possible, but this question had never come up. They believed that staff would be commenting on the RFP on the City Council's behalf. She noted the comment period had been extended from last Friday since MTA staff had been invited to make this presentation this evening.

Mayor Pro Tem Portantino asked if they were studying the tunnel with or without trucks since different statements were made to different cities. Ms. Amiri said that both would be studied.

Following additional discussion, Ms. Amiri concurred that the City Council could have an additional ten days to comment. She agreed to get the RFP to the City Council on the condition they sign a confidentiality agreement.

Richard Gilden and Sharon Raghavachary representing the Crescenta Valley Town Council, asked to be included in the study, also. They noted that, although they are impacted, because they are unincorporated they often get left out.

Ross Eastey commented that there is no way to keep trucks off a freeway once it is built.

Brian Gebhardt from La Crescenta, spoke about mass transit.

### Public Hearings

14. Appeal of Public Works & Traffic Commission denial of a Public right-of-way Temporary Encroachment Permit at 4210 Hampstead Road, Eric and Virginia Ford.

Staff report by Director of Public Works Castellanos. The applicants have withdrawn their appeal and staff recommends the City Council accept their withdrawal.

Mayor Olhasso opened the public hearing. There was no one present wishing to speak.

Mayor Olhasso closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio to accept the withdrawal of the appeal of Public Works & Traffic Commission denial of a Public right-of-way Temporary Encroachment Permit at 4210 Hampstead Road. Motion carried unanimously.

### Concluding Business

16. Councilmembers' Reports regarding regional and local representation

Councilmember Spence noted he is on SCAG's transportation committee and Roger Snoble has stated there is no money for any of the things they are studying.

Councilmember Spence stated the Blue Line Authority governance will be discussed by the Executive Committee of the San Gabriel Valley COG on September 16, 2004.

Mayor Pro Tem Portantino noted that the League of California Cities Annual Conference will be in Long Beach on September 17-19. The Youth Council will be attending since there are specific sessions geared to Youth Councils.

Councilmember Brown stated the Contract Cities Association committee is building up to a meeting with David Janssen and the Sheriff regarding the Sheriff's fees.

Councilmember Spence stated the tax rate supporting the Fire Department will be lowered this year if the Board of Supervisors supports the Oversight Committee's recommendation of which he is a member. (Corrected by Council action October 4, 2004)

17. Councilmembers' request for future agenda items

Councilmember Del Guercio requested a report on Proposition 1A. That is an important ballot measure to cities. City Manager Alexander stated it is scheduled for October 4, 2004 regular meeting.

18. Councilmembers' comments

Councilmember Spence asked what the hole in Angeles Crest Highway, south of Olive Lane is. Director of Public Works Castellanos stated it is a pit to receive sewer pipe being pushed through from DeLinda rather than trenching across Angeles Crest Highway.

19. City Manager and/or staff comments

City Manager Alexander stated that Assemblymember Carol Liu's office notified us today that she was successful in getting CalTrans to stop work on the installation of the changeable message sign on Angeles Crest until CalTrans will meet with the City and continue discussions on a suitable location to both parties.

Adjournment

Mayor Olhasso adjourned the meeting in the memory of Barbara Voss, who passed away this morning. She is the wife of City Treasurer Don Voss. The Mayor and Council extended condolences to Mr. Voss and his family. The time was 8:50 p.m.

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Marjorie K. Wahlsten, CMC  
City Clerk

Minutes approved by the City Council on October 4, 2004